

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /054 W
-----043105 040142Z /14

R 021856Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3679
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BDA COMMENTS ON U.S.
WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO

REF: (A) BONN 18239; (B) BONN 18455

1. DR. ERNST GERHARD ERDMANN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GERMAN EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS AND FORMER GERMAN EMPLOYER MEMBER OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY MET TODAY WITH EMBASSY LABATT TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF CURRENT ISSUES ON THE GERMAN LABOR SCENE. DURING THE DISCUSSION, ERDMANN INTRODUCED THE SUBJECT OF U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO. ALTHOUGH HE CEASED ACTIVE PAR-
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TICIPATION IN ILO FORUMS IN 1973 AFTER ASSUMING BDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP, HE REMAINS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN GERMAN EMPLOYER POLICY TOWARD THE ILO.

2. ERDMANN STATED WITHOUT RESERVATION THAT THE GERMAN EMPLOYERS UNDERSTAND THE U.S. REASONS FOR WITHDRAWAL AND ARE SYMPATHETIC TO OUR VIEWS. NEVERTHELESS,

THEY REGRET THE US ABSENCE BECAUSE THE STRUGGLE TO PRE-SERVE AND PROTECT "WESTERN" INTERESTS IN THE ORGANIZATION WILL BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT WITHOUT THE US.

3. WOLF-DIETER LINDNER, THE PRESENT GERMAN EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVE ON THE ILO GOVERNING BODY, WHO TOOK PART IN THE DISCUSSION, SUGGESTED THAT ARTICLE 17 IN ILO STANDING ORDERS COULD BE AMENDED TO ELIMINATE POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS AT CONFERENCES. WITHOUT COMMENTING ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THAT BEING DONE, ERDMANN INTERJECTED THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO CHANGE THE RULES TO ELIMINATE POLITICAL SPECTACLE AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT FIRMER, MORE COURAGEOUS APPLICATIONS OF EXISTING RULES WOULD IMPROVE THE SITUATION. HE RECOUNTED HIS OWN EXPERIENCE AS EMPLOYER VICE PRESIDENT AT THE 1973 CONFERENCE WHEN HE PRESIDED AT SEVERAL SESSIONS AND FREQUENTLY RULED SPEAKERS OUT OF ORDER FOR INDULGING IN EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL STATEMENTS. HE ALSO REJECTED A RESOLUTION THAT WAS NOT SUBMITTED WITHIN THE SPECIFIED TIME LIMITS. HE SAID THAT HE SIMPLY USED EXISTING RULES AND VIGOROUSLY APPLIED THEM. HE NOTED WITH APPROVAL THAT ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD HAS STATED THAT HE WILL EXERCISE HIS PREROGATIVE TO SCREEN OUT PURELY POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE ILO.

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4. ADDITIONALLY, ERDMANN FEARS THAT THE GROUP OF 77 AND THE COMMUNISTS WOULD EXACT AN UNACCEPTABLE PRICE FOR PERMITTING ARTICLE 17 TO BE AMENDED. HE MENTIONED AS PARTICULARLY UNACCEPTABLE THE ABOLISHMENT OF THE 10 NON-ELECTIVE SEATS ON THE G.B. HE SAID THAT THE EMPLOYERS GROUP STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE NON-ELECTIVE SEATS AND ADDED THAT EMPLOYER SUPPORT IS STRONGER THAN THAT OF SOME WESTERN GOVERNMENTS.

5. COMMENT: WHEN HE WAS ACTIVE IN ILO AFFAIRS, ERDMANN WAS A FIRM SUPPORTER OF POSITIONS FAVORED BY THE U.S. AND WAS AN IMPORTANT VOICE IN THE EMPLOYERS GROUP OF THE GOVERNING BODY. IN HIS PRESENT POSITION, HE REMAINS JUST AS FIRM IN HIS VIEWS AND HIS VOICE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BDA IS VERY IMPORTANT AMONG GERMAN EMPLOYERS. SINCE THE KIDNAPPING AND MURDER OF FORMER BDA PRESIDENT HANNS MARTIN SCHLEYER, ERDMANN IS VIRTUALLY RUNNING THE ORGANIZATION.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, LABOR POLICY LINE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770449-0577
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197712102/aaaadige.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7edecefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BONN 18239, 77 BONN 18455
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 107333
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BDA COMMENTS ON U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO
TAGS: ELAB, GE, US, ILO, (ERDMANN, ERNST GERHARD)
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7edecefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009